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H. A. HOWARD, MANAGER

(Continued from last week)
The Red River Valley is probably the worst thistle infested area in Canada. Soil and rainfall are preponderantly suited to its spread. Many marshy areas provide an unfailing source of fresh pollution. It is a hard and expensive job to work. By 1929, the war propaganda for heavier grain production had done its work. In this area Farmers had been sowing the country side was literally grogging under a problem it seemed powerless to handle. The cost of cleaning land reached the point where all the profits from a crop were swallowed up.

An Accidental Discovery
To John R. Bradford and his neighbors at Portage in Prairie on the western side of this valley he owes the credit for devising a way out. Speaking of these first few years Bradford says: "Every year seemed to put us further and further back. By 1929 thistles were so bad I thought I had reached the end of my tether. In desperation I resolved to have one more conventional try at a good fall cultivation. I started early. I ran a cultivator after the binder on some early cut fields. It wasn't very satisfactory. There was so much trash that the implement choked continually and I had to discontinue it after two weeks."

However, Bradford has laid the foundation of a discovery, now the grain farmer in that town. His own words tell it:

"The next year, to my surprise, I noticed that the outside rows of that field were practically clean of thistles, infinitely cleaner than the field which received more attention later on in the season. The second fall I commenced plowing immediately after the binder. The results were almost too startling to credit. The harvested plowed fields were the cleanest on the place, surpassing even the fallows."

From that day till I took him in 1925 Bradford never followed a new land. All his crop land has been plowed. With less expense he was producing more grain, and rapidly gaining control of a situation that almost had him down. Today he is buying more land.

If Bradford was the Moses of harvest plowing, J. R. Earles a near neighbor, and more ardent proselyter, has been his Aaron. His own experience were plentiful with Bradford. He took me to a field where a clean, five-foot crop of rye was awaiting the binder and told me the history. "I sold this farm in 1929 to a thirty in disastrous young lad," said Earles. "He started from early morning till late at night trying to get ahead of the sow thistle by the only methods we then knew. It couldn't be done. The thistles had him first on his back in three years. In 1921 the field lay idle, the thistles in such complete control that no crop would have had a chance to live. It was harvested plowed in that year and sown to fall rye. Find the thistles if you can."

There were spots in the field where the rye had winter killed. These bare places gave one a good opportunity to see what the plant life on the field consisted of. Not a single grain, a few viable seedlings but of old thistles, practically none. From the experience of the neighborhood these men formulated the rule—plow the thistle when in bloom—earlier than the first week in August—not later than the first week in September.

Those were the days when the concentration of power into larger units was only beginning to be seriously considered. The standard outfit on the Portage Plains was a five-horse affair. Bradford and his neighbors had to depend on two or three horse-drawn gangs following eight foot binders. They waded their binder through as well as plow horses on the unplowed stubble and had elaborate attention paid for converting the stubble over to the plowed land.

But a big change has come over the Portage Plains. I have seen it every harvest and last year no noticeable had the spread of harvest plowing become, they spent a little more time investigating.

Local residents estimate for me that two out of every five farmers are harvest plowing and many more would be if they could command the power resources it calls for. If a man requires two to four power units for every binder in the field he is fair game for the tractor salesman. And the employment of tractors has modified the way in which harvesting is done. Another change which came largely into the spread of harvest plowing is the introduction of the one-way disc. It makes as good a

job of thistle killing as any model blade, so the Portage farmers assure you. Followed by a binder it makes an ideal harvest plowing outfit. The one-way disc must travel at a speed exceeding five miles an hour, and for that reason the purchase of a one-way disc is almost conditional on the ownership of a tractor. Not only that but some makes of tractors, speeded up faster than others, get the performance for one dollar. At Portage you will find one make of tractor well in the lead.

The combine has become a factor on the Portage Plains and this also has a bearing on the spread of harvest plowing. The combine owner cannot get on his crop till the grain is dead ripe. By that time the thistles are beginning to make seed. Much of the time for effective work is gone. If the early combined land is tacked in immediately it becomes available good work may be done, but as Earles says, "The worst criticism of harvest plowing has come from those people who have left it till too late. You can go on a field in October and reduce it to a lovely tith, but the next year it will be a carpet of thistles and you may not get your seed back. That's not harvest plowing."

I put it to Earles to stand by his declaration of four years ago. He is prepared to make some modifications arising out of experience. "The growing months of 1927, 28, 29, were the three worstest we on the Portage Plains have had in 25 years," says Earles. "Harvest plowing during those years was not nearly so effective as it was in 1924 and it is probable a remnant of old traditions. These men think the land with a fallow, and then depend on harvest plowing to keep the succeeding second and third crops clean."

Effect of Annual Weeds
When harvest plowing was first introduced the agricultural college tried it, but gave it up later because of the spread of annual weeds. Frenchweed particularly. "We've got Frenchweed, lots of it," Earles admits, "but we don't find it gets any worse under harvest plowing." In the district there is also some couch grass. As it has the same growing habits as sow thistle it is natural to expect that control methods designed to keep down the thistles would have some effect against it. Bradford reports that the couch grass in his fields has gradually disappeared in spite of the three wet years previously referred to.

Perhaps one should sound a warning that weed control methods which are entirely successful in one locality may fail under different soil and moisture conditions. There is both light and heavy land in the Portage district, and harvest plowing seems equally effective there. I know of at least one other locality in Manitoba where it has been tried with success. However, as one moves west, summerfallow seems to become more and more indispensable, and harvest plowing would be expected to shrink in importance, becoming a supplementary scheme for keeping the second and third crops clean.

The bank managers of Portage, who know how near to ruin weeds brought their district, are solidly behind the virtues of harvest plowing. Three of them asserted that the farmers who are practicing it are in better shape with regard to weeds than they were, before. It has done at least this much—it has given the plain farmers confidence to face a situation which a few years ago seemed hopeless.

"BY WAY OF EXPLANATION"
A PRODUCER OF ALBERTA honey complains of an editorial which appeared recently in the Herald under the title, "Why Not U. S. Honey?" and writes a letter to the press in a very interesting explanation. The editorial in question called at Alberta to the inconsistency of Alberta manufacturers who ap-

pealed to the public to purchase goods produced in Alberta, while they at the same time put those goods up in packages and under labels "Printed in U. S. A." The practice is far too general in Canada, and is all the more deplorable when it is adopted by our own Alberta producers.

In complaining of the Herald's editorial, this Alberta honey producer states that: "In this matter of printing for labels alone, we paid to Alberta printers and lithographers for the current year the sum of \$284.19, and from the outside the sum of \$11.50. The sum can be assured that even this small item would have been purchased in Alberta if it could have been done at anything like that sum." The honey men argue (till they buy the majority of their labels in Alberta, and rightly so. They contend that the small order of "Printed in U. S. A." appears on the label or container of any product, a sales reason is automatically created. Retailers can hear out the contention that the buyer frequently turns to another line, when the one he first proposed to purchase is encased in a package bearing that familiar line "Printed in U. S. A."—Hanna Herald.

BANKERS BUSINESS
SUMMARY ISSUED

—
Winnipeg, discussion of the wheat situation has relieved an otherwise uneventful month in the trade and commerce of Canada, says the current monthly business summary just issued by the Bank of Montreal.

"It is not from the unmarking of last season's crop the prairie farmers suffer," the summary continues, "but by reason of the near failure of the harvest in many of these services, has followed. Thus by half than that of the previous year. Upon the crop gathered growers received a substantial payment several months ago—in the case of Pool members a dollar a bushel, No. 1 Northern basis—and their concern is now the amount of the final payment to be made to them. The price at which the supply carried over is ultimately sold will determine this, but for the smaller crop of 1929 farmers have already received as much, proportionately as in the previous harvest. The visible supply of wheat in store in Canada is now about 218,000,000 bushels, the

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31 inch Gingham, per yard 25c
Printed Pongee, per yard 45c
Victorian Fabric, per yard 35c
Chintz, a good variety, new pattern, yd. 35c
Striped Bath Towels, 5 for 90c

2 lbs. Nabob Coffee \$1.15
2 lbs. Nabob Tea \$1.15
2 lbs. Blue Ribbon Tea \$1.15
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2 Pails Strawberry Jam 95c
SUGAR 30 lbs. \$1.30
SUGAR 10 lbs. 70c
SUGAR 10 lb. paper bag 65c

We have 27 boxes of APPLES to clear at \$1.75 per box.
Fresh tomatoes, Celery, Head Lettuce etc. always on hand.

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Dry Goods 87 Groceries 18 Res. 88

bulk of which will be moved out before August 1 at such prices as foreign markets afford. The notion that when sold the large store of wheat in Canada will mean much new found money for prairie farmers is, however, erroneous, in as much as these have already received a substantial amount for their grain.

Effect on Traffic
"The delay in the movement of the short crop has already had its effect. Transportation lines on land and water have been deprived of traffic and unemployment in these services is a result. These adverse influences have in lesser degree affected business generally and to them may in part be attributed the reaction of recent months.

No warning contingency is shown in the view that the halt is but temporary, and that with the advent of spring and resumed activities of navigation unemployment will diminish and the volume of trade expand. Meanwhile, current quietude is not likely to disappear.

"How beautiful you are!" a pretty girl said to a young man.

"Yes," said he, "I take after father there."

"Was your father beautiful?"

"Yes," said he, "he was."

"Was he?"

"Yes," said he, "he was."

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